

health care, renewable energy, education and jobs. Those aren't just domestic needs. They are critical parts of our national security.

The administration, Mr. Speaker, has tried to solve all of our problems with military force alone. That strategy has been a miserable failure. We cannot bomb or torture our way to victory in the fight against terrorism. We must work to end the poverty and the despair that caused it. The sooner we learn that lesson, the safer America will be.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### AMERICA'S EPIDEMIC OF HEALTH CARE-ACQUIRED INFECTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TIM MURPHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it seems like every day in this House floor we call for a moment of silence to recognize some tragic loss of life across our country. And it is fitting that we do so.

If we were to recognize with a moment of silence those who die in hospitals from avoidable infections, we would be stopping House business many times each day.

So I am here to express my concern that we continue to ignore the increasing problem and potentially fatal epidemic of health care-acquired infections. Another week goes by and more and more patients are becoming infected with preventable infections. And instead of tackling this issue head-on, we continue to let the number of cases rise. And the costs strains our health care system, and more lives are lost.

Well enough is enough. This year alone, up to today, there have been 1,243,835 cases of health care-acquired infections. There have been a total of 61,562 deaths. And the total cost on our health care system has been \$31 billion 95 million 999,420.07. By the end of this year, that estimate will be \$50 billion and 100,000 lives lost.

Something must be done. We must put self-interests aside and work together to improve the safety of our hospitals. And I am committed to making sure this happens. That is why I introduced legislation last year that saves lives and money, H.R. 1174, the Healthy Hospitals Act. And it has received strong bipartisan support and support from consumer groups.

This legislation offers a simple solution to lower the costs associated with health care-acquired infections. It is not expensive. It simply requires hospitals to publicly disclose their infection rates and let the public see this transparently.

□ 2015

Hospitals should be taking commonsense measures, like washing hands, sterilizing equipment between uses, testing patients and giving antibiotics at the right time. It is, after all, people's lives we are trying to save.

How can a hospital or health care system argue that they don't want to report their infection rates if reporting is shown to save lives? How can hospitals complain that they don't want patients to know about patient safety and patient quality? Aren't hospitals supposed to be in the business of saving lives?

Hospitals need to be held accountable for opposing legislation, for opposing legislation, that would require reporting, because evidence shows it makes a difference. In my home State of Pennsylvania, there are shining examples of what happens when hospitals are held accountable for reporting.

Hospitals in Pennsylvania are required by State law to make their infection rates public, and we have seen the infection rates drop dramatically. Some hospitals were able to get to a zero infection rate, no lives lost. And here is the mortality statistic. According to the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, the average charge of hospitalization for a patient who became infected with a hospital-acquired infection was \$185,000 each, while the average charge for a patient without an infection was \$31,000. Reporting infections is proven to save money and lives.

Hospitals say "it will cost us more to keep track of it." That simply is not true. Isn't this enough to get our hospitals on board? Isn't this enough proof to save lives? Our health care system is in need of repair, not just simply saying it is too expensive, let's let government take it over. It needs to be fixed.

While we continue to talk about reforming government, cutting costs and eliminating funding for infrastructure projects back home, I hope my colleagues in the health care industry will support commonsense legislation that will save money and lives.

Public reporting of health care acquired infections is exactly what it sounds like, but the benefits of this simple action are far reaching. I hope that patients and their families will speak up to Members of Congress about the need for this transparency and demand such legislation be enacted.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues and hospitals around the country, especially those hospitals that know this saves lives and money, to support public reporting of hospital-acquired infections. Let's do this right. Let's save lives. After all, the families of so many Americans are at stake here. We can act on this. We can make a difference. We can save lives and save money.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, we have a health care crisis in America. Rising health care costs are overwhelming individuals, families and businesses, large and small. We have a staggering 41 million individuals, nearly one in six Americans, without health insurance. In America, that is just not fair.

Millions more Americans have only catastrophic coverage, with \$5,000 to \$15,000 deductibles. Others have policies with copays so high that basic health care needs, including preventive and diagnostic service, are not met. Many families are literally one serious illness away from bankruptcy.

To fix our broken economy, we have to fix our broken health care system. We must build a stronger, more effective health care system before it is too late. The future of our country and our ability to compete in the global economy depend on it. I believe that every American has a right to quality, affordable health care that doesn't blunt the competitive edge of employers or unduly burden taxpayers. It is time for bold action.

I have created the Healthy Americans Plan to relieve the strain on families and individuals, ease the burden on businesses and nonprofits and drive down costs. It builds on the strengths of the existing American health care system, but provides new and better choices for businesses, the self-employed, families and individuals.

My plan will offer quality, affordable health insurance choices like those available to Members of Congress. My plan will help small businesses offer employee health coverage by providing them with a refundable tax credit. It also improves access to medical care in rural areas and provides relief for middle-class families and individuals who are struggling to afford health insurance.

The key elements of my plan include the following:

All Americans, including the self-employed and owners and employees of small businesses, will be guaranteed the freedom to purchase a quality plan that is affordable and right for them.

Americans who like their current health care coverage will have the security of knowing they can keep it.

Insurers will have to compete for business on the basis of cost and quality, not by profiting from and discriminating against people because of age or preexisting conditions.

National choices will include private plans as well as a nationwide option, a

nationwide public option. Employees enrolled in the national plan will be able to keep their plan even if they change jobs, move to a different State or have changes in their medical condition.

Costs will be driven down, with comprehensive measures designed to improve quality and promote efficiency, including investing in health information technology.

Under my plan, people aged 55 to 65 will be allowed to buy into Medicare to provide security to early retirees, who are often charged higher premiums based on their age and risk of incurring higher medical costs.

My plan ensures that all children have access to health insurance by expanding the SCHIP program and improving outreach and enrollment.

It eliminates barriers so parents can cover their children up to age 25 under their family insurance plan.

Middle-class Americans deserve a health care system with affordable insurance premiums and access to the best possible care. Small business owners need a system that allows them to stay competitive and provide good coverage for their employees.

Older Americans and younger Americans, two of our most vulnerable populations, need a system that guarantees access to necessary care, regardless of income level.

We need experienced, dedicated leadership to address the fundamental shortcomings of our existing health care system. My Healthy Americans Plan will make the system more efficient and cost-effective and will improve access to quality, affordable health care for all Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSWOMAN STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of a great woman, my friend and colleague, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

First, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to Stephanie's entire family, her son Merv and her sister Barbara. I also want to offer my condolences to the constituents of Ohio's 11th Congressional District, to all of Stephanie's many friends and colleagues, and, of course, to her staff here in Washington, DC and in Ohio.

On August 20th, the people of Cleveland, this Nation and the world lost a

giant in the fight for equality and justice when we lost our beloved Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones. When I walked on to the floor tonight, I looked for Stephanie. She wasn't in the Speaker's Chair presiding. She wasn't on the floor moving around, energizing and inspiring our deliberations. It is hard to accept the fact and to believe that her physical presence won't be with us anymore.

So many knew Stephanie Tubbs Jones for her exceptional work on behalf of her constituents and for the many barriers she broke and trails she blazed as the first African American woman elected to Congress from Ohio, as the first African American woman to serve on the Ways and Means Committee, and the first to chair the House Ethics Committee.

Congresswoman Tubbs Jones and I came to Congress about the same time. We worked closely together for a decade, and she was one of the most remarkable persons I have ever known. Whether it was standing up for Ohio voters and fighting for election reform, or fighting to end the unjust war and occupation of Iraq, she was always on the right side of history. And, like for many, Stephanie Tubbs Jones was a very, very good friend.

Friendship means different things to different people. Stephanie's friendship for me meant trust. She was my confidante. Stephanie's friendship for me meant support. Stephanie Tubbs Jones' friendship meant spending girl time, shopping, eating, traveling, talking about matters of the heart, like her man-child son Merv, who was her heart and her soul. Stephanie's friendship to me meant being for real in discussions about political and legislative issues. And Stephanie's friendship for me meant a lot of love.

I always remember last year when my father passed away, the love and concern for me and my family that she displayed. With the loss of her husband, her mother, her father and her sister, she assured me that I needed to grieve, and she called me day and night to make sure I wasn't planning on coming right back to work after the funeral. And, oh, how right she was.

From attending events together, to just grabbing dinner or an occasional down moment, we spent a great deal of time together throughout the years. Stephanie was my traveling partner. We shared magnificent experiences in Israel and in Cuba. I will always cherish those times and memories.

It was during some of our travel together and our work together for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation that I got the chance to know her husband, Mervyn Jones, whom she loved dearly and tragically lost in October of 2003. In the wake of his death, Stephanie created two very successful Golf and Bid Whist Tournaments in his memory through the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. And she insisted that her friends and her colleagues participate with her.

She loved young people, and made sure that these annual events helped raise money for countless scholarships. I know she would be pleased that a scholarship now has been established in her memory.

Some have spoken of Stephanie's culinary experiences and skills. She would bring some of her fabulous chili here to share with us, and always loved to it share her recipes, especially her mustard-based fried catfish and her mother's fried corn recipe.

I can remember calling her on her cell one day. She was in a meeting in Cleveland while I was preparing her fried corn recipe. Of course, I didn't quite get it right, so she stepped out of this meeting and she walked me through this recipe, step by step.

We all have so many Stephanie stories. She was a woman for all seasons, a devoted mother, a devoted sister, a brilliant legislator, a dedicated representative of Ohio's 11th Congressional District, and she was a history maker, as the first African American woman to break many glass ceilings. And, yes, she was my trusted friend, a true friend, and a fabulous woman whose smile lifted us all up and forced us to be positive, even on days when we were down. Stephanie was my gym partner, as we both tried to get our physical fitness regimen back on track.

Yes, the Honorable, and that she was, Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones, was a great congressperson, and she never lost the common touch. She would help people find their seats on the airplane, she mentored young people, and she would constantly remind us to be strong advocates for working men and women. Recalling her father's work as a sky-cap, she never forgot who she was, and she used her positions to help those shut out and those underrepresented.

So, yes, we owe Stephanie Tubbs Jones a debt of gratitude. I thank her son Mervyn and her sister Barbara and her entire family for sharing this brilliant and beautiful woman with us. Her spirit is smiling tonight on us. It continues to move around this floor, nudging us to do the right thing.

May God's grace and His love undergird her family during these difficult days, and may we redouble our efforts in Stephanie's memory, our efforts for justice and peace and equality and to make this a better world for all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BOOZMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)